



**HAWAII
GREEN**

2024

**BUSINESS
PROGRAM**



Board of Water Supply



**HAWAII
STATE
ENERGY
OFFICE**



Hawaii Energy

HAWAII™
CONVENTION CENTER
Where Business and Aloha Meet



Background:

At HCC, the guests, event organizers, team members, and communities have come together for more than two decades to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural beauty of the Hawaiian Islands. The Ho'omalūō program, launched in 2018, celebrates that commitment with a multi-faceted approach to environmental conservation that inspires everything we do and touches everyone we serve.

Highlights

UPGRADE PROJECTS

Chiller Upgrade: The Chiller Upgrade project involved the replacement of five aging primary chillers with new, high-efficiency models. This comprehensive upgrade is designed to improve the overall reliability, energy efficiency, and performance of HCC's cooling system. This upgrade is an investment in infrastructure that will deliver both immediate operational improvements and long term financial and environmental benefits.

LED Lighting Upgrade: We are upgrading lighting throughout the ballrooms, meeting rooms, exhibition halls, parking areas, loading dock, back-of- house offices and hallways to LED. HCC is anticipating \$150K in annual savings. Previously, the HCC lighting was retrofitted to fluorescent and other energy efficient options.

Sustainable Solutions: HCC replaced 15% of the original transformers, which represented an 85% reduction in electrical usage per unit.

Solar Photovoltaic Systems: HCC has issued an RFP for advancing energy solutions by integrating solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to maximize energy efficiency, reduce environmental impact, and support the center's operational energy needs for renewable sources. The solar PV system is anticipated to reduce current expenses by 29%. With the completion of other energy savings projects, chiller replacements, and LED lighting upgrades, the solar PV system should realize a greater percentage of utility savings.

Energy Credits and Rebates: HCC partners with Hawai'i Energy and State Team Energy (through DAGS) to apply for energy incentives to offset project costs.

ONGOING INITIATIVES

One Million Trees and Carbon Offset Program

Through the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, the Hawai'i Convention Center is committed to planting 1 million Legacy Trees statewide, contributing to the reforestation of native and endemic trees on O'ahu and the Island of Hawai'i.

In 2022, HCC launched a first of its kind program that provides [Carbon Offset](#) opportunities for all meetings and events held at the Center. This initiative is an expansion of the One Million Trees program and provides meeting organizers with the opportunity to offset the carbon footprint of their meeting, as well as offer individual attendees the ability to select and plant endemic and native trees virtually or in-person. Since we launched the program in July 2022, participating events and conferences have contributed a total of \$44,775.88 in carbon offset which equates to the planting of 543 trees. This is also equivalent to offsetting 551.36 MTCO₂e (Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent), as of March 2025.

LEED - Gold Certification.

HCC earned LEED v4.0 O+M Existing Buildings Gold Certification in 2018. In 2021, the Center improved from 61-67 points under LEED v 4.1O+M and was recertified Gold and 2024 recertified Gold with a score of 72.

Zero-Waste Events.

HCC offers clients the option to host a Zero Waste event which focuses on reducing consumption, reusing materials, and diverting at least 90% of waste from landfills and incinerators—supporting more sustainable and environmentally responsible gatherings.

ONGOING SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

Energy Conservation & Efficiency. The Center's innovative design features a rooftop canvas sail harnessing Hawai'i's trade winds for natural ventilation, reducing the reliance on air conditioning and electricity. HCC's lighting and air conditioning systems are programmed to follow a set schedule and automatically turn off when the building is inactive. Motion sensors in intermittent use areas also help with energy conservation. HCC has the capacity to switch to a smaller energy-efficient jockey chiller during low occupancy periods.

Water Conservation. HCC boasts automatic dispensers for sink faucets, hand towels, hand soap and hand sanitizer in all restrooms to save on water, towels, and cleansing products. It also features low-flush toilets, urinals, and low-flow aerators in sinks and showers throughout the building.

Air Quality. For transport on property, staff use self-pedal bicycles, electric carts, and propane-powered lifts, reducing the need for petroleum products, thereby improving air quality. It also encourages attendees to take alternative modes of transportation, such as Honolulu's new bikeshare program, Biki, which has a station onsite. HCC conducts an Air Quality test annually to assure guests and staff have the optimum work environments.

Waste Reduction. HCC manages a robust repurposing program, recycling glass, plastic, aluminum, paper, and cardboard from events and all administrative offices. Construction contractors manage and track waste generated from projects. HCC's Food and Beverage operation sends food waste for animal feed and recycles cooking oil. HCC's Diversion Rate to date is 48%; diverting waste from the landfills.

Sustainable Purchasing. HCC encourages a “buy local” procurement policy whenever possible. This extends to Hawai'i-sourced food products and items created and produced in Hawai'i, thereby reducing the shipping and packaging needs for products delivered to the center. HCC's Food and Beverage operation to date purchases 25% of produce from local farmers. In addition, all equipment purchases are reviewed closely for sustainable features; material, operation, air quality output, and efficiency.

EMPLOYEE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Annual Employee Activities. HCC's staff celebrate Sustainability through three annual activities, Earth Hour, Earth Day and America Recycles Day.

Staff have participated in planting of shrubs on property, planting of herbs for personal use, planting of a staff-sponsored tree in the Legacy Forest, the Genki Ala Wai Project and numerous recycling drives.

Hui Ho'omaluo. The Sustainable Committee actively initiates new ideas to further sustainable practices for HCC's operating departments as well as for meeting planners to implement during their events. Members from key departments assist others to plan and execute these initiatives, set goals, and track and manage data for HCC.

Community Service. HCC welcomes and hosts groups from high schools, colleges, universities, and professional associations to share ideas and successes we have achieved through the sustainable program. Through the exchange of ideas and lessons learned, we approach sustainability as a partnership where we can all come together for the betterment of our Earth.



Tree planting



Earth Day



Chiller upgrade



Genki balls



Zero Waste



Genki balls